AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-57. (Cancelled)

58. (Previously Presented) A container closure assembly, comprising a container mouth and a closure therefor, the closure has a top portion with a plurality of segmented lugs depending there from, each of which has a plurality of vertical ridges, the closure comprising an engagement device configured for interlocking with a formation around the mouth to retain the closure on the mouth, and a band for bracing the engagement device to lock it in an engaged condition by resisting outward movement of the engagement device when the band is in a bracing position; characterized in that:

the band is movable intact and relative to the engagement device out of the bracing position, and in that the mouth has a larger configuration than the engagement device of the closure in an unstressed condition of the engagement device, such that when the closure is in its operative position on the container mouth after fitting, the engagement device is stressed outwardly and the band is maintained in a state of static tension, said tension increasing the bracing effect of the band on the engagement device, and wherein the closure assembly physically interfaces only with a top surface and exterior surfaces of the container mouth.

59. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 58, wherein in an operative position of the closure on the container mouth and prior to the first time the closure is removed, the band is integrally coupled to the closure by a plurality of integral frangible connections.

60. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 59, wherein the frangible connections are collapsible without shearing, to permit limited outward deformation of the engagement device.

61. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 58, a frangible connection is positioned on each of the plurality of vertical ridges on the segmented lugs of the closure facing the band.

62. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 58, wherein the container mouth has a lateral dimension of at least 4 cm.

63. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 58, wherein the container and closure are able to withstand an internal pressure of at least 60 psi.

64. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 58, further comprising co-operating abutment surfaces for producing at least one mechanical interlock between the bracing band and the engagement device for communicating tension in the bracing band to the engagement device.

65. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 58, wherein the engagement device is segmented.

66. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 58, wherein the engagement device comprises one or more lugs which engage one or more undercuts adjacent to the container mouth.

67. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 66, wherein the undercut comprises a rim around the container mouth.

68. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 66, wherein at least one said lug comprises a locking projection, the locking projection comprising a lead-in ramp surface, and an abutment surface.

69. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 68, wherein the abutment surface is inclined at an angle whose magnitude is less than that of the inclination of the ramp surface.

70. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 58, wherein the closure is formed of plastics.

71. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 58, wherein the closure is refittable to the container mouth after it has been removed for the first time.

72. (Previously Presented) A container closure assembly, comprising a container mouth and a closure therefor, the closure has a plurality of segmented lugs depending there from, each of which has a plurality of vertical ridges, the closure comprising an engagement device configured for interlocking with a formation around the mouth to retain the closure on the mouth wherein the closure is in contact only with an exterior surface of the container mouth, and a band for bracing the engagement device to lock it in an engaged condition by resisting outward movement of the engagement device when the band is in a bracing position; characterized by:

the mouth having a larger configuration than the engagement device of the closure in an unstressed condition of the engagement device, such that when the closure is in its operative position on the container mouth after fitting, the engagement device is stressed outwardly,

co-operating abutment surfaces on the band and the engagement device configured such that:

(i) in the unstressed condition of the engagement device, the abutment surfaces are non-interlocking and do not restrict the movement of the band relative to the engagement device, and

(ii) in the stressed condition of the engagement device after fitting on the container mouth, the abutment surfaces produce a mechanical interlock between the band and the engagement device in a circumferential direction, to restrict movement of the band relative to the engagement device in the circumferential direction.

73. (Previously Presented) A press-fit, lift-off container closure comprising an upper wall, a plurality of wall segments depending from the upper wall, each segment having a plurality of vertical ridges thereon, wherein the upper wall and wall segments contact an upper surface of a container mouth and an exterior surface of the container mouth respectively, without contacting an interior surface of the container mouth, an engagement formation on a radially inner face of the side wall or wall segment, and a bracing band for bracing the plurality of wall segments to restrain radial outward movement thereof; characterized in that:

the bracing band is integral with the closure and is joined thereto by a plurality of spaced apart frangible connections positioned on each of the vertical ridges, and in that the bracing band is mounted radially outside said plurality of wall segments carrying the engagement formation;

the plurality of wall segments is configured to be stressed outwardly from an unstressed condition to a stressed condition when the closure is in its fitted condition on the container mouth;

cooperating abutment surfaces are provided on the band and on the plurality of wall segments and configured such that:

(i) in the unstressed condition of the plurality of wall segments, the abutment surfaces are non-interlocking and do not restrict movement of the band relative to the plurality of wall segments, and

(ii) in the stressed condition of the plurality of wall segments after fitting of the closure on the container mouth, the abutment surfaces produce a mechanical interlock between the band and the plurality of wall segments in a circumferential direction, to restrict movement of the band relative to the plurality of wall segments in the circumferential direction.

74. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 73, wherein the band is mounted for hinged movement relative to the closure upon shearing of the frangible connections.

75. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 73, wherein the frangible connections are collapsible without shearing to permit limited outward deformation of the plurality of wall segments.

76. (Cancelled)

77. (Cancelled)